

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 20-36 are pending in the current application. In the Office Action dated June 2, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Further, claims 20-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,301,609 ("Aravamudan"). In this Amendment, Applicants amended claims 20-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33, and 35, and cancelled claims 24, 28, 32, and 36. Applicants request reconsideration in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 29-32 were rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 29-31 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Amended independent claims 20 and 29 recite audibly communicating a status of at least one member of a group over a telephone call; amended independent claim 25 recites audibly communicating a detected status of a first member and a detected status of a second member over a telephone call; and amended claim 33 generally recites audibly communicating a notification message stored in a storage device over a telephone call, where the notification message indicates an online status of a user. Aravamudan fails to teach at least these elements of the independent claims.

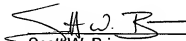
Aravamudan is directed to assignable associate priorities for user-definable instant messaging buddy groups. Generally, Aravamudan teaches that a user may interact with client premises equipment (CPE) to log into a communication services platform (CSP) and receive a status of buddies. However, Aravamudan fails to teach audibly communicating a status of a buddy over a telephone call.

Because Aravamudan fails to teach the above-recited elements of the independent claims, Aravamudan necessarily does not anticipate independent claims 20, 25, 29, and 33, or any claim that depends on claim 20, 25, 29, or 33.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Brim
Registration No. 51,500
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200